

designed to advise and instruct an Iraqi Battalion in combat operations. Tragically, on May 3, 2006, while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the Al Anbar province of Iraq, Captain Letendre gave his last full measure for our Nation when he was killed in action by a suicide vehicle borne improvised explosive device. His valor and service cost him his life, but his sacrifice will have provided freedom from tyranny and oppression for many around the world.

Captain Letendre's hard work and perseverance contributed greatly to his unit's successes and placed him among many of the great heroes and citizens that have paid the ultimate price for their country. Throughout his career, Captain Letendre earned a series of awards that testify to the dedication and devotion he held for his fellow Marines, the Marine Corps, and his country. These awards include: the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a Combat "V"; the Purple Heart; the Combat Action Ribbon; the Army Achievement Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Iraqi Campaign Medal; the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy); the Joint Meritorious Unit Award; the National Defense Service Medal; the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3rd Award); the Navy Unit Commendation as well as the expert pistol badge and sharpshooter rifle badge. He was also a graduate of the Survival, Escape, Resistance, and Evasion (SERE) School and was a Green Belt Martial Arts Instructor.

Several times throughout his life, Captain Letendre could have chosen the easier or more comfortable path, but he didn't. He felt a call to something much greater than himself at an early age and followed his heart to where he felt he could help make this world a better place. Because of men like him, this world is safer and more stable, and that is why he is a true hero.

In an e-mail two days before his death, he wrote that he missed his wife and son dearly, but was proud to be over there serving the country. Captain Letendre was an exceptional Marine officer, but most importantly he was a wonderful and caring father, husband, brother, son, and friend to many. And that is how he will be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to remember in our minds and in our hearts the bravery and sacrifice of Captain Brian Letendre, as well as that of all the men and women of the armed services who honorably protect the American people.

SENIOR MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, the shortage of mental health professionals in rural areas has contributed to disproportionately high rates of depression and suicide. In my home State of Wyoming, the suicide rate is twice the national average. Wyoming's seniors in particular are seriously underserved, in part because they have limited options under the Medicare program.

Currently, the only mental health providers allowed to be reimbursed by Medicare are

psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and clinical nurse specialists. In some communities, however, there may only be a marriage and family therapist (MFT) or licensed professional counselor (LPC) available.

The bill I am introducing today will give seniors more options for mental health care by allowing MFTs and LPCs to provide Medicare services at the same reimbursement rates as social workers. MFTs and LPCs are as qualified and able as other mental health providers covered by Medicare, and should be treated accordingly.

Under the Senior Mental Health Access Improvement Act, MFTs and LPCs would be able to provide outpatient psychotherapy and inpatient hospital services. It also allows them to provide Medicare services in Skilled Nurses Facilities, rural health clinics and hospice programs.

We still have a long way to go in improving access to medical care in rural areas like Wyoming. Getting our seniors the mental health care they need is an important step in the right direction.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT WILLIAM "BILL" BROWN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant William "Bill" Brown for his over 21 years of dedicated service with the Boulder City police force.

Bill has truly acted in all capacities in the Boulder City Police Department. Having started as a "beat cop" of the street he rose through the ranks to serve as fill-in chief. Greatly respected by the community and his fellow officers, Bill was an asset to the department and performed his duties with skill and professionalism. He was so well respected by his fellow citizens that he was often called while off duty for advice and counsel.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the career of Lieutenant William "Bill" Brown. He epitomized what it is to be a community oriented public servant. Bill's dedication to his fellow officers and the community as a whole truly reflect the best of how First Responders serve. I wish him the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my fellow Americans and my colleagues in Congress to celebrate one of the most honorable and significant professions. National Teacher Day is an opportunity for us to recognize the extraordinary effort of our Nation's educators and reflect on the profound impact of their work.

As a former teacher and school administrator, I am particularly aware of the challenges that educators face, such as overcrowded and under funded schools. Teachers

are more highly educated than ever and bring a higher level of expertise to their work than their predecessors. The majority of American teachers have at least one advanced degree and 49 percent have at least 15 years of experience in the classroom. Teacher salaries, however, have not increased commensurate with greater teaching experience and higher levels of education.

Low salaries and general discontent with working conditions drive capable, experienced teachers out of the profession, and by 2014, schools nationwide will need another 3.9 million teachers. The numbers of male teachers and teachers of color does not reflect gender and racial trends in the general population. An increase in salaries for all teachers, as well as better recruitment and retention policies for minority and male teachers may help to rectify this problem.

I hope that National Teacher Day will serve as a reminder to Americans of the crucial role that teachers play in our society. It is imperative that we increase funding for education and make teacher's salaries commensurate with their experience, education, and hard work. Teachers help to shape future generations, and they deserve both our respect and our continuing support. Please join me in thanking them on this special day.

RECOGNIZING BOULDER CITY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADING SQUAD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boulder City High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad for their win at the Inaugural Silver State Spirit Championship this past March.

The championship consisted of four divisions: 1A through 4A, and teams in each division performed a three minute routine judged on originality, appearance, smiling, difficulty, precision and recovery. This event is the only State high school cheerleading championship offered in Nevada.

The members of the Boulder City High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad are to be commended for their success and hard work. Cheerleading is a rather unique athletic event, whereas most high school sports compete in only one season, cheerleading encompasses two. Their time and dedication is reflected in their success.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Boulder City High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad for their win at the Silver State Spirit Championship. I applaud them for their victory and wish them the best in future seasons.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLIE POWELL ALBURY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Charlie Powell Albury of Miami, Florida on her installation as the 40th Imperial Commandress